

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 945

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Jr.,
former member of the General Assembly and
former Commissioner of Conservation.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that we learned of the passing of Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Jr., a leader in the House of Representatives for twenty years who continued his public service as Commissioner of Conservation after leaving this body; and

WHEREAS, renowned throughout Memphis, Shelby County, and Tennessee as a true statesman, Dr. Gill served with distinction as a member of the House of Representatives for District 88 in Shelby County from 1966 to 1986; and

WHEREAS, as a vital member of House leadership, he served as chair of the Calendar and Rules Committee for many years and also chaired the Shelby County delegation to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the House, Dr. Gill served in Governor Ned McWherter's cabinet as Commissioner of Conservation from 1987 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, in this important position, Dr. Gill worked with purpose and conviction to improve Tennessee State Parks and protect state wildlife refuges and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many contributions as a government official, Dr. Gill lived the majority of his life as an active supporter of youth sports, a tireless worker for his community, and an avid fisherman and hunter; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Gill was honored by the University of Memphis as a recipient of The Golden Tiger Award for his years of dedicated service to that institution, and the Frayser branch of Shelby State Community College was named in his honor by the Tennessee Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gill was a graduate of Millington Central High School, the William R. Moore School of Technology, and the Palmer College of Chiropractic and was a well-known chiropractor in the greater Memphis community for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gill was preceded in death by his father, Elbert, Sr., his mother, Mozelle, and his daughter, Patricia Gill; and

WHEREAS, this noble gentleman is survived by his wife, Grace Gill; his five children, Sherry Hipp, Deborah Dale, Scott Gill, Alan Gill, and Candice Griggs; his eight grandchildren; his great-grandchild; his two brothers, Dr. Tom Gill and Michael Gill; and his sister, Dorothy Watkins; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Jr. was wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and we wish to commemorate his exemplary tenure in this body and in the executive branch; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that even as we mourn the passing of our former colleague, we celebrate the bountiful life of Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his indelible legacy as a statesman, legislator, conservationist, community leader, and sportsman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to Dr. Gill's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.